UNITED
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A

General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

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ENGLISH

Forty-sixth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 36th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 24 October 1991, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. SHIHABI (Saudi Arabia)

- Statement by the President on the occasion of United Nations Day
- Tenth anniversary of the University for Peace [26]
  - (a) Report of the Secretary-General
  - (b) Draft resolution
- Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs [17] (continued)
  - (d) Election of twelve members of the World Food Council: note by the Secretary-General
  - (e) Election of seven members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination: note by the Secretary-General
- Organization of work

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT ON THE OCCASION OF UNITED NATIONS DAY

The PRESIDENT: Today, 24 October 1991, marks the forty-sixth anniversary of the coming into force of the United Nations Charter. In its short life, which has witnessed a vast increase in its membership and global responsibilities, the United Nations has recorded an impressive list of accomplishments in many diverse fields which have enhanced the lives of millions all over the world.

The United Nations is now entering its forty-seventh year in the midst of profound changes on the global scene. At this moment of great hope and expectation for the future which heralds a new era in international relations and in which the United Nations will have a central role to play, the time has come for Member States to pledge full moral, material and political support for this world body. On this United Nations Day let us therefore all - Governments and peoples of the world - reconfirm our dedication to the lofty goals and noble principles of the United Nations Charter which remains the best guarantee for the future of humanity.

AGENDA ITEM 26

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY FOR PEACE

(a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/46/580)

(b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/46/L.14)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I call on the representative of Costa Rica, who wishes to introduce draft resolution A/46/L.14.

Mr. TATTENBACH (Costa Rica) (interpretation from Spanish): It is a special honour for me to inaugurate the Assembly's consideration of this item on the happy occasion of United Nations Day, as I did last year, and to speak before the General Assembly on behalf of the kindred Republics of Central America on an item to which we attach the utmost importance: "Tenth anniversary of the University for Peace". We are meeting here today in keeping with General Assembly resolution 45/8, adopted on 24 October 1990, when we celebrated the first decade of the University for Peace. Since its establishment by General Assembly resolution 35/55 of 5 December 1980, the University for Peace has become what the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, has defined as the sole United Nations institution of global vocation headquartered in Latin America.

(Mr. Tattenbach, Costa Rica)

It is precisely the Secretary-General who has been unsparing in his efforts to generate cooperation from a considerable number of Heads of State and of Government in the Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa. The request of the Secretary-General is prompted by the grave financial constraints that the University for Peace has been facing. However, these have not prevented the organization from acquiring a large amount of experience or from taking a number of initiatives that have been put into effect. The Secretary-General, as part of his commendable support for the University for Peace, has established with the United Nations Development Programme a Trust Fund for Peace with a target of $250 million. The specific purpose of this Fund is to finance ongoing activities provided for in the mandate of the University for Peace and its educational, research and support functions in relation to United Nations activities directed towards achieving peace and reconciliation, and to finance the activities of the Secretary-General to this end. Of the input to the Fund, 90 per cent will be used for the purposes I have just described; the remaining 10 per cent will not be committed but will be used to increase capital.

The Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama are extremely happy about, and wish to express appreciation of, the Secretary-General's support - in particular, his support for the provision of a site in a Central American State for such a valuable institution.

The few moments that I wish to devote to the work of the University for Peace are insufficient. For example, one could mention the establishment and implementation of international programmes for masters' degrees, such as those relating to international relations and cooperation, social dialogue and

(Mr. Tattenbach, Costa Rica)

development, education for peace, natural resources, quality of life, human rights, the peaceful settlement of disputes, sustainable development and environmental protection. With these educational programmes, the University for Peace is responding effectively to the challenge that is embodied in its fundamental objective, as expressed in article 2 of its Charter:

"to provide humanity with an international institution of higher education for peace and with the aim of promoting among all human beings the spirit of understanding, tolerance and peaceful coexistence, to stimulate co-operation among peoples and to help lessen obstacles and threats to world peace and progress, in keeping with the noble aspirations proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations."

Even more important is the true significance of these activities, the intention being to establish a peace culture, in which cooperation and harmony, rather than unfortunately deep-rooted cultural violence, will prevail.

Today, men are deciding to choose democracy, equality and respect for human rights. They are deciding to follow the path of peace. In this regard, Central America - that small region - is no exception. Day by day, more and more guns are being exchanged for books, for food, for white handkerchiefs, for life.

In the efforts to achieve peace, we Central Americans have not been alone; the international community has worked with us to find solutions to the conflict. The Esquipulas II Agreement of 7 August 1987 laid the foundation for the democratization of, and the return of peace to, Central America through the establishment of national reconciliation committees. Once again, the presence of the University of Peace was felt when it suggested that the Presidents of Central America should convene the first regional meeting of a

(Mr. Tattenbach, Costa Rica)

reconciliation committee at the University's headquarters in Ciudad Colón, Costa Rica, on 18, 19 and 20 September 1989. This active presence of the University for Peace has earned it the appreciation and support of the Central American Presidents, who, in paragraph 36 of their Declaration of San Salvador, El Salvador, of 17 July 1991, set out this objective:

> "To support the work of the University of Peace and to appeal to the international community to support the initiative of Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, Secretary-General of the United Nations, aimed at strengthening this international organization, which has its headquarters in the region, through a Fund for Peace." (A/45/1039, p. 10)

This spirit of peace and conciliation of the University for Peace made a major contribution to the solution of the Central American crisis by moving the Presidents of the region to declare Central America as "a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development".

The many seminars, courses, conferences and activities organized or carried out by the University for Peace include the establishment of the Central American Chair for Peace - an especially important initiative as it gives high academic standing to views expressed by top leaders of the region.

The campus of the University was inaugurated last May by the President of Guatemala, Mr. Jorge Serrano Elias. It was established in gratitude for, and in support of, the concerted efforts of the Central American Presidents in the process of restoring peace and democracy to the area.

These points were highlighted in statements made at the recent presidential summit at Puntarenas and at the San José VII Conference. The working items that concerned the University included zones of peace, education for peace, and ecological subjects. The establishment of a United Nations information centre on the campus was proposed by the Government of Costa Rica

(Mr. Tattenbach, Costa Rica)

to the Committee on Information at its recent meeting. This proposal will be considered at the current session of the General Assembly in the context of the item entitled "Questions relating to information". It is our hope that the proposal will be welcomed by the General Assembly when it considers the subjects dealt with by the Special Political Committee. Once again, the support of the international community has not been wanting, and the Governments of the Central American region and the University for Peace are most grateful.

Nevertheless, the challenge is enormous, and the resources are very meagre. Accordingly, once again the Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama wish to urge States Members of the United Nations that have not yet done so to accede to the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace under General Assembly resolution 35/55, so that the University may be able to fulfil its motto:

> "If you desire peace, prepare for peace. The University for Peace must be the laboratory of the spirit of peace, the crucible where we create the new mentality of peace in the coming decades. Either the twenty-first century will be one of peace, or there will be no twenty-first century."

(Mr. Tattenbach, Costa Rica)

It is now an honour for me to introduce, as requested, the draft resolution on this item. Accordingly, I submit to the General Assembly for its consideration the draft resolution contained in document A/46/L.14 on behalf of the Central American delegations, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and my own delegation, and all those delegations which generously decided to become sponsors of the draft resolution along with us, namely, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, India, Italy, Marshall Islands, Morocco, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Peru, Romania, Samoa, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Thailand, Togo, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zaire.

The preamble recalls the establishment of the University for Peace by resolution 35/55 of 5 December 1980 and the commemoration of its tenth anniversary by resolution 45/8 of 24 October 1990.

It recognizes that since its establishment 10 years ago the University for Peace has suffered from financial limitations which have impeded its development of the appropriate and necessary activities for carrying out its important task.

It also recognizes that despite these limitations the University for Peace has undertaken important activities and developed programmes that can be applied to the subject-matter and disciplines of education and training for peace.

The fifth preambular paragraph notes that the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme, has established a Trust Fund for Peace. We should like to point out that in order to incorporate a suggestion to amend this paragraph, we have included the words

(Mr. Tattenbach, Costa Rica)

"consisting of voluntary contributions" between the word "Peace" and the phrase "in order to".

Paragraph 1 notes with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution 45/8.

Paragraph 2 welcomes the establishment by the Secretary-General of the Trust Fund for Peace. The same amendments have been made to this paragraph by the insertion of the words "consisting of voluntary contributions" between the word "Peace" and "for". Although we preferred the original text, in order to achieve general consensus, we agreed to these two amendments to the text.

Paragraph 3 invites the States Members of the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental bodies as well as interested individuals and organizations to contribute to the Trust Fund for Peace.

Paragraph 4 invites Member States to accede to the International Agreement for the University for Peace, thus demonstrating their support of a global institution for peace studies whose mandate is the promotion of world peace.

Finally, in paragraph 5, which we consider to be of the utmost importance, the General Assembly decides to include in the agenda of its forty-eighth session and biennially thereafter an item entitled "University for Peace". This paragraph is the result of our desire to reconcile our view with those of other delegations which requested the amendment to the text so that, instead of having the item dealt with at the forty-seventh session, it would be postponed until the following year, and thereafter the item would be dealt with on a biennial basis. As we are all aware, this is the goal towards which we have been working over the years since the University was established, and we believe that it is important to keep this item on the

(Mr. Tattenbach, Costa Rica)

agenda so that the University for Peace can enhance and expand its programmes and activities - those that it has already developed and those which it plans to develop for 1992 and the years to come. The Central American and other delegations which have sponsored the draft resolution invite all members to adopt it without a vote.

Mr. MONTERO (Chile) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation is very glad that the item we have before us today, which coincides with such an important date as the commemoration of United Nations Day, has once again been included in the agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly. It is again an honour this year, as it was last year, for my country to co-sponsor the draft resolution on the Tenth Anniversary of the University for Peace introduced by the representative of Costa Rica. It could not be otherwise. Chile enthusiastically associates itself with this item and participates in the commendable objectives of this international specialized centre, which has been carrying out its activities so well in the past decade. However, the visionary expectations of its founders have encountered difficulties.

The principles which inspired the establishment of this institution for peace, the only one of its kind within the United Nations system, are more valid than ever before in a revitalized international scenario, where confrontation is frankly being replaced by cooperation and understanding among nations.

An institution that so successfully promotes the cause of peace and which is totally committed to the search for this supreme blessing deserves our entire support and cooperation.

The commitment of our Organization to this fruitful initiative was evident during the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly when in 1980

(Mr. Montero, Chile)

resolution 35/55 was adopted. This resolution laid the legal foundations for the institution. Its fundamental goal - and it is not superfluous to recall this - is to:

"provide humanity with an international institution of higher education for peace and with the aim of promoting among all human beings the spirit of understanding, tolerance and peaceful coexistence, to stimulate cooperation among peoples and to help lessen obstacles and threats to world peace and progress, in keeping with the noble aspirations proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations." (resolution 35/55, art. 2)

The University can feel quite happy about the complete attainment of these objectives. We note, as peace dividends are becoming a reality, that this institution has made a magnificent contribution to them.

On this occasion, I cannot but mention that our fraternal Republic of Costa Rica has rightly been chosen as the site for this University Centre. What better decision could have been made to give this great honour to a nation which has such a democratic and peaceful history and which is such a tenacious champion of the principles and values contained in the founding Charter of the University?

My country, like the other countries in the region, is proud of the decision of the United Nations to establish the headquarters of this centre for peace in this well-loved Central American Republic. We are certain that its enormous contribution to the success of the University's activities in the last 10 years will continue.

(Mr. Montero, Chile)

My delegation is very gratified that the pace of the activities of the University for Peace, which had already been increasing, has been accelerated even more in this second decade since its foundation, and also welcomes the major international meetings for peace which have been held there.

We recall the formal session on 18 March last during which the President of Guatemala delivered a magnificent inaugural address for the Central American Chair for Peace; the subject will be a permanent feature of the University's curriculum. This is particularly relevant now, when the peace plan of the Presidents of the region, backed by the Security Council, is producing positive results in El Salvador and Guatemala.

This Chair for Peace and the other degree programmes linked by the common theme of peace are a faithful reflection of the commitment the University has made in a subject of the greatest significance for mankind. My country therefore urges it to go on developing fresh initiatives and projects to enable it to enrich its already fruitful labours.

On the same subject, I would draw attention to the emphasis the University for Peace is placing on academic courses relating to the important subject of human rights. The importance and validity this subject has taken on in recent years place on our University the enormous responsibility of emphasizing, with academic rigour and discipline, a multidisciplinary treatment of human rights.

Similarly, we think that the no less important subject of security - tied in as it is with the subject of peace - covers not only the military aspects of disarmament but also those threats which jeopardize social and economic development and human dignity: drug, environmental and other similar

(Mr. Montero, Chile)

problems. When security is viewed from that perspective, we see that it should be a priority subject in the future research and teaching programmes of this institute of higher learning.

For all those reasons, and aware of our obligation to lend our resolute support to the University in its new phase of activity, my Government is now considering the possibility of contributing to the special United Nations fund which finances it, in line with the Secretary-General's request to the President of the Republic. My country will do everything it can to meet this request for finance, which is of the greatest significance for the operational future of the University for Peace. We hope that the Secretary-General's initiative in establishing an endowment or trust fund to finance the University's new activities will receive Member States' resolute support.

My delegation has noted with great interest the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/580) submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with resolution 45/8 of 24 October last year. His detailed account - which merits our commendation - of the work of the University last year motivates us even more to co-sponsor the draft resolution (A/46/L.14) on the University for Peace before the Assembly today and to call on the Assembly to approve it by consensus.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/46/L.14.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt this draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/46/L.14 was adopted (resolution 46/11).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly has concluded its consideration of agenda item 26.

AGENDA ITEM 17 (continued)

ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS:

(d) ELECTION OF TWELVE MEMBERS OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL: NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/46/274 and Corr.1 and Add.1)

(e) ELECTION OF SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION: NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/46/279)

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now consider agenda item 17 (d), "Election of twelve members of the World Food Council".

In accordance with resolution 3348 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, the General Assembly elects the members of the World Food Council upon the nomination of the Economic and Social Council.

The Assembly has before it documents A/46/274 and Corr.1 and Add.1, which contain the nominations by the Economic and Social Council to fill the vacancies in the World Food Council which will occur as a result of the expiration on 31 December 1991 of the terms of office of Australia, Cape Verde, Cyprus, Ecuador, Germany, Guatemala, Niger, Paraguay, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe.

The following States have been nominated by the Economic and Social Council: three African States for three vacancies - the Central African Republic, Swaziland and Uganda; three Asian States for two vacancies - Indonesia, Pakistan and Thailand; two Eastern European States for two vacancies - Albania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; three Latin American and Caribbean States for three vacancies - Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua; and two Western European and other States for two vacancies - Australia and Germany.

(The President)

With regard to the Asian States, I have received a letter dated 23 October 1991 from the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations indicating that Pakistan has withdrawn its candidature. As a result, the number of candidates nominated from among the African States, the Asian States, the Eastern European States, the Latin American and Caribbean States and the Western European and other States is equal to the number of seats allocated to each of those regions.

In accordance with paragraph 16 of decision 34/401, the Assembly may dispense with balloting when the number of States nominated from among the regions is equal to the number of seats to be filled.

I take it that the Assembly wishes to declare those States elected members of the World Food Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1992.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I congratulate the States which have been elected members of the World Food Council.

The Assembly has concluded its consideration of agenda item 17 (d).

We shall now turn to agenda item 17 (e), "Election of seven members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination".

In accordance with General Assembly decision 42/318 of 17 December 1987, the Assembly elects the members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination upon the nomination of the Economic and Social Council.

The Assembly has before it document A/46/279, which contains the nominations by the Economic and Social Council to fill the vacancies in the Committee which will occur as a result of the expiration on 31 December 1991 of the terms of office of the Bahamas, Benin, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America, Venezuela and Zambia.

(The President)

The following States have been nominated by the Economic and Social Council: two African States for two vacancies - Ghana and Zambia; one Eastern European State for one vacancy - the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; three Latin American and Caribbean States for two vacancies - Bahamas, Nicaragua and Uruguay; two Western European and other States for two vacancies - France and the United States of America.

The number of candidates nominated from among the African States, the Eastern European States and the Western European and other States corresponds to the number of vacancies to be filled in each of those regions.

Mr. MAYORGA CORTES (Nicaragua) (interpretation from Spanish): For the sake of the solidarity and unity of the Latin American and Caribbean region, Nicaragua has decided to wait until next year to aspire to membership of the Committee for Programme and Coordination. This will facilitate the election of the Bahamas and Uruguay at this session of the General Assembly, as they are the only two candidates from the Latin America and Caribbean Group for the two seats available.

The PRESIDENT: In accordance with paragraph 16 of decision 34/401, the Assembly may, in elections to subsidiary organs, dispense with secret balloting when the number of candidates corresponds to the number of seats to be filled. Accordingly, may I take it that the Assembly, taking into account the statement of the representative of Nicaragua, wishes to declare those States nominated by the Economic and Social Council elected members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination for a three-year period beginning on 1 January 1992?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I congratulate the States which have been elected members of the Committee on Programme and Coordination.

We have concluded our consideration of agenda item 17 (e).

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I should like to inform members that the consideration of agenda item 22, "Programmes and activities to promote peace in the world", which was originally scheduled for this morning, has been postponed until Thursday, 31 October 1991. This will be the first item taken up in the morning.

I would also inform members that in order to facilitate the conduct of the election of members of the International Law Commission - under agenda item 17 (b) - on Thursday, 14 November 1991, we shall proceed, in accordance with established practice, to seek a decision by the General Assembly on the matter of requesting the Secretariat to issue a revised, updated list of candidates reflecting all submissions received. I intend to consult the Assembly in this regard at our next plenary meeting, on Monday, 28 October 1991.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.

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A/46/PV.37
31 October 1991

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Forty-sixth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 37th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 28 October 1991, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. SHIHABI (Saudi Arabia)

later: Mr. AL-NI'MAH (Qatar)
(Vice-President)

- Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System [25]

  (a) Report of the Secretary-General

  (b) Draft resolution

- Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference [27]

  (a) Report of the Secretary-General

  (b) Draft resolution

/...

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- Programme of work

- Adoption of the agenda and organization of work [8] (continued)

  (a) Letter from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences

  (b) Documentation for the election of the members of the International Law Commission

- Programme of work

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 25

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM

(a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/46/419)

(b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/46/L.17)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I call on the representative of Peru to introduce draft resolution A/46/L.17.

Mr. LUNA (Peru) (interpretation from Spanish): I have pleasure in introducing, on behalf of the co-sponsors, the draft resolution entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System" (A/46/L.17) and co-sponsored by all the member States of the Latin American Economic System (SELA).

The main purpose of the draft is to strengthen and extend the cooperation between the United Nations system and the Latin American Economic System. As has been demonstrated, such cooperation is an effective tool for the practical application in our region of the economic and social objectives of the United Nations.

The new emerging international order, and specifically the present trend towards the globalization of the international economy, have given a renewed impetus to the consultative and harmonizing role of the regional organizations.

If we are to rebuild the world economy on an equitable basis, we must take into account, in addition to the liberalization of economic flows, their impact on the social conditions of peoples. Otherwise, the social and political distortions which impede the full application of the system of collective security enshrined in the Charter will continue.

(Mr. Luna, Peru)

In this context the regional organizations become the link par excellence between the global efforts of the international community and the practical application of the measures resulting from them.

In the case of Latin America and the Caribbean the global subjects which today are on the international agenda and which demand a new dialogue based on cooperation and understanding, acquire in SELA a renewed political significance because it is the ideal vehicle for advancing along the path of international harmony.

(Mr. Luna, Peru)

This interdependent vision of the world gives added significance to the need to continue deepening the ties of cooperation between the United Nations and SELA.

I am very pleased to recall here that the draft resolution welcomes the signing, on 27 September last, of the Agreement of Cooperation between the United Nations system and SELA. I am sure that this Agreement will strengthen and expand the already broad ties of cooperation between SELA and the various bodies of the United Nations, since we now have a solid framework within which to carry out efficiently joint projects for improving the quality of life of the Latin American and Caribbean peoples.

In this connection I should like to commend the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the former Permanent Secretary of SELA for the interest they have shown in the conclusion of this Agreement. I am sure that in so doing I am fully reflecting the feelings of all members of the system.

The preamble of the draft resolution submitted for the Assembly's consideration refers, inter alia, to the many activities carried out by SELA jointly with various bodies of the United Nations system, as well as SELA's implementation of priority programmes for the economic development of the countries of the region.

In its operative paragraphs the draft resolution takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General and urges the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to strengthen and broaden their coordination with and support for the activities of SELA.

(Mr. Luna, Peru)

It also urges the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to continue and intensify their support for and cooperation with this regional organization.

It requests both the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Permanent Secretary of SELA to assess jointly the implementation of the recently signed Agreement of Cooperation between the United Nations and SELA, to which I referred earlier, and to report to the General Assembly thereon at its next session.

Since the draft resolution contains no controversial elements and reflects the aspirations of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean with respect to the broadening and strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and SELA, the delegation of Peru, on behalf of all the sponsors, hopes that the draft resolution will be adopted by the General Assembly without a vote.

Mr. MONTAÑO (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): For the Latin American and Caribbean region in general, and Mexico in particular, the item before the General Assembly today is of particular significance. Sixteen years after its establishment, the Latin American Economic System (SELA) has become the regional body with the broadest participation. During this period SELA has played a leading analytical role and has stimulated coordinated action with respect to the developments which have had the greatest impact on the economic and social situation in the area.

Today, Latin America, like other developing regions, realizes the need to adapt, with determination and clear aims, to a radically changing world. The combination of structural problems and new challenges in the present global context has led us in various ways to intensify joint efforts. SELA has

(Mr. Montaño, Mexico)

served not only as a collective catalyst for interregional cooperation but also as a forum for consultation and coordination in the adoption of joint positions and strategies. This role will be enhanced to meet the challenges of our times and respond to Latin America's desire to affirm its presence in the world.

The past decade was a difficult one from which we learned valuable lessons. The region is still faced with the consequences of that adverse period, which to a great extent derived from global macroeconomic imbalances. For us, the external debt problem has undoubtedly had the greatest impact.

The crisis led us to reassess our potential and try to find new hitherto unexplored paths to overcome it. With a practical and realistic approach, we are assuming the responsibility that is incumbent upon us, as is shown by the programmes of adjustment and modernization the entire Latin American region is carrying out.

In the face of the emerging international economic system characterized by interdependency and globalization, we the Latin American nations are aware of the need to adopt plans that are in keeping with the dimensions of the transformations. We must recover the dynamism our economies experienced for several decades. We know our limits, but we also see the opportunities the present situation offers. We are trying to overcome the inertia and rigidity that still impede our development. We now view modernization as a necessary daily process.

Thanks to the will and efforts of the peoples of our region, there is a new impetus for cooperation and integration giving rise to a more favourable environment. There is a proliferation of various initiatives with distinct goals. The desire for interregional cooperation has never been greater and we are working more consistently to this end.

(Mr. Montaño, Mexico)

We Latin American and Caribbean countries have discovered in political harmonization and foreign trade excellent channels for bringing us together. Recent years have seen many such endeavours in which all the nations of the region have been involved. This has led us to create imaginative cooperation mechanisms; no option that we have perceived to be feasible has been discarded.

It was in the context of these aspirations that in July last Mexico hosted the First Ibero-American Conference. The hopes of the 21 participating countries are well reflected in the Guadalajara Declaration, in which we reaffirm our determination to contribute to the regional integration efforts with the firm resolve of having them open to the world. Isolation is not what we want. We want to contribute actively and resolutely to the emergence of a new type of organization of international relations, as well as to cooperate in global efforts for peace, security and well-being.

We thank the Secretary-General for the extensive and complete report on cooperation between the United Nations and SELA he has submitted in connection with the discussion of this item. We are pleased to note in this document that cooperation between both bodies has been intensified. In recent months, this cooperation has been extended to areas of priority interest to our region. In this respect, we should stress the valuable and fruitful relationship with regard to the Uruguay Round negotiations: many meetings have promoted the harmonization of positions with respect to the agenda of these most important negotiations. Thanks to this cooperation, Latin America and the Caribbean were able to present a detailed and broad assessment at the Ministerial Meeting of the Committee on Trade Negotiations, held in Brussels last December.

(Mr. Montaño, Mexico)

In the context of this collaboration, the challenges and opportunities which Latin America is facing are being approached from a special viewpoint. The challenge of industrialization, which is so relevant for us, has been widely discussed by SELA and various bodies in the United Nations system. Just a few days ago, in fact, a regional conference was held on the subject to consider the problems and prospects in this sector. Other subjects of importance, not just for the area alone but also for the world, are receiving growing attention in SELA; these include the environment and intellectual property.

We want this fruitful cooperation between our two organizations to rise to greater levels. We are therefore pleased to see included in the report (A/46/419) a number of organizations which are carrying out activities of great importance for the region.

Of recent projects in which SELA has served as a forum for considering issues of common interest for the developing countries, we would mention the recent meeting in Caracas at which Latin America and the Caribbean countries agreed to give a boost to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as a forum for studying and promoting development.

We should also highlight the meeting in April last year on the region's relations with the United States at which the American Initiative was evaluated. The area's relations with countries and groups outside South America are also receiving attention in SELA. Thus, we welcome the cooperation agreement with the European Community and the beginning of a process of harmonization with Japan. This is a token of the desire of SELA and its component countries to be open towards all regions of the world.

(Mr. Montaño, Mexico)

We are certain that more and better-articulated collaboration between SELA and the United Nations system will strengthen SELA's capacity to promote regional harmonization and cooperation and will boost the United Nations contribution to the efforts of the Latin American and the Caribbean countries to achieve integration. My delegation therefore supports the appeal by the delegation of Peru to support draft resolution A/46/L.17, "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System".

Mr. MONTERO (Chile) (interpretation from Spanish): The delegation of Chile is glad that the subject before us today has once again been included in the agenda of this forty-sixth regular session of our Organization. We note with satisfaction that cooperation between the United Nations and SELA is becoming more and more important, and we hope that it will become even more so following the recent conclusion of an accord between the two institutions establishing a stable cooperation mechanism which opens up enormous opportunities.

Chile supports the terms of the agreement as it will create new channels to expand the economic and social development programmes which are so necessary for our region and to strengthen other initiatives which involve joint participation by SELA and the United Nations. We are certain that this instrument gives us the best chance of improving and diversifying institutional cooperation through the necessary coordination of activities and reciprocal exchange of information which are essential if this work in support of the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean is to be optimized.

(Mr. Montero, Chile)

When we spoke last year from this same rostrum on the same subject as is being considered in this plenary meeting, we expressed the commitment of the Government of Chile to the multilateral regional organizations and the need to bring them into an interrelationship with the United Nations system. Today, we express that notion once more in the conviction that a degree of complementarity between those organizations and the United Nations is necessary and desirable. Our view is expressly reflected in the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/419), in which he gives us a detailed account of the various cooperation programmes between the United Nations and SELA carried out over the past year. The report, which we welcome, is in perfect accord with what was requested under resolution 45/5, and reveals the enormous range of opportunities opened up by this collaboration.

We take note with special satisfaction of the marked increase in the cooperation programmes between SELA and the United Nations over the past few years; in this respect, the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) has assumed a major role in managing and implementing many projects which have benefited our region. We recall the effective contribution the two bodies have made in the recent past to regional development projects in the areas of transport and communications; industry and technology; social improvement programmes; technical cooperation; and cooperation in the field of intellectual property. The joint initiatives carried out between SELA and the specialized agencies have been equally valuable.

(Mr. Montero, Chile)

In this very positive account, I am bound to mention the recent coordination meeting of the two institutions in New York, attended also by many representatives of offices, agencies, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system. Among its conclusions the meeting highlighted the opportunities for joint action between all the participants, particularly in the areas of integration, development finance, industrialization, technical cooperation in general, industrial property, social questions and the eradication of the extreme poverty in our continent.

My delegation would like to emphasize the importance the Government of Chile attaches to the social aspects of development. We therefore strongly favour the possibility of giving priority to the social problems of our region in future cooperation programmes between the United Nations and SELA. We cannot ignore the painful realities with which, regrettably, our region is afflicted or the persistent deficiencies in such important areas as health, education, housing and employment.

Faced with these realities, to which Chile is no stranger, my Government has accepted - as a challenge which it must take up and to which it has given priority in its basic programmes - the imperative need to solve, without delay, some of the aforementioned social problems. Moreover, in a spirit of solidarity with Chile's most backward sectors, it has assumed a commitment, which will enable them to share, in equity and social justice, in the major economic achievements of our Government.

In the context of the cooperation schemes which we are studying and of those which have recently started between SELA and some of the specialized

(Mr. Montero, Chile)

agencies, I should like to recall that SELA has just received from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) considerable help in dealing with foreign debt problems and the trade negotiations of the Uruguay Round. This collaboration has been fundamental and we hope it will continue, bearing in mind the great challenges and opportunities the world economy offers the region. For this reason, the advice and support of the regional and international bodies is more vital than ever.

In the context of these joint activities, we should like to highlight, in particular, the programme being carried out between the Permanent Secretary of SELA and the regional UNCTAD/ECLA/UNDP programme of support for the countries of the region in the Uruguay Round negotiations.

(Mr. Montero, Chile)

My Government appreciates the important cooperation made possible by this initiative, which provides the technical basis for coordination in the context of these negotiations. We are convinced that this close relationship should be maintained in the future, so that, with the continued support of the United Nations Development Programme, we may face the challenges that are presented by the multilateral trade system.

Finally, our delegation expresses again its Government's desire to see the scope of the existing plans for cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System widened, so that the plans may become effective, fast and modern tools to further the dynamics of Latin American integration and secure the progress and well-being of our peoples. Therefore we invite the Latin American countries to associate themselves and to cooperate with the various subregional bodies to which they belong and to participate, with the United Nations system, in this very important and positive new stage.

Mr. MORET (Cuba) (interpretation from Spanish): First, I should like, on behalf of the Government of Cuba, to congratulate Mr. Salvador Arriola on his election as Permanent Secretary of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) and to express gratitude to Mr. Carlos Perez del Castillo for his important contribution at the head of that very important body.

My delegation has always supported the Latin American economic system most firmly. We regard it as one of the most appropriate mechanisms for the promotion of economic and social consultation and coordination in the Latin American and Caribbean region. SELA was created in response to the perceived need to establish a genuine regional forum in which its own positions could be discussed and common strategies could be adopted as a genuinely regional

(Mr. Moret, Cuba)

approach based on the principles of equality, sovereignty and solidarity. Throughout these years SELA has played a central role in the process of Latin American integration and has taken an important part in harmonizing the region's economic policies.

My delegation feels that SELA is called upon to play a dual role, which is much more important than its present role: it is called upon to be an appropriate forum for internal concertation, as well as for representing the interests of its members in their contacts with third countries and international bodies. In this regard, we feel that SELA should be the point of contact for advancing Latin American theses on extraregional responsibility in the areas of foreign debt, trade and technical cooperation between countries in the region.

After 30 years of cautious and timid efforts, it seems that regional integration is becoming an irreversible process. Now, significant subregional and sectoral agreements are confirming a trend towards integration, and creating greater opportunities for the Latin American and Caribbean region within the world economic system, which is becoming more and more interdependent. In this context, SELA's role is of increasing importance. Its particular characteristics and its capacity to promote technical and economic cooperation between the countries of the region provide the United Nations with a vehicle to move forward its development activities and with a means of supplementing the efforts of the United Nations system in various sectors.

Once again the delegation of Cuba endorses the appeal that cooperation between the United Nations and SELA be strengthened and that this regional body be given a greater and more relevant role in the implementation of

(Mr. Moret, Cuba)

economic and technical cooperation programmes - in particular, those offered through the United Nations Development Programme.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We shall now take a decision on draft resolution A/46/L.17.

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/46/L.17 was adopted (resolution 46/12).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): In accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/3, of 13 October 1980, I now call on the Observer of the Latin American Economic System.

Mr. DE ROJAS (Latin American Economic System (SELA)) (interpretation from Spanish): I should like, very briefly, on behalf of the permanent secretariat of the Latin American Economic System (SELA), to thank the States of the Latin American region for submitting draft resolution A/46/L.17, and the Members of the General Assembly for adopting it.

We are certain that, with the implementation of the resolution - I refer in particular to the new Agreement of Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System, which it mentions - there will be even greater possibilities for joint and complementary action in the various fields deriving from one and the same objective: the development and progress of our countries.

Mr. Salvador Arriola recently assumed office as the new Permanent Secretary of SELA and spelt out a programme of 11 priorities for the work of the Latin American Economic System over the next four years, based on the mandates of the Latin American Council. Much of this work will require technical and financial support from the international community, including the United Nations. Therefore we are encouraged that the General Assembly has

(Mr. De Rojas, Latin American Economic System)

decided, through this resolution, to urge the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to strengthen and broaden its support for SELA's programmes, including the adoption of a new regional project within the context of the Fifth Programming Cycle. This will be of the greatest importance for the future work of our organization, and we hope that it will be given positive consideration at the next meeting of the UNDP Governing Council.

Once again we express our gratitude to you, Mr. President, and to all the members of the General Assembly.*

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We have concluded our consideration of item 25.

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* Mr. Al-Ni'mah (Qatar), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 27

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE:

(a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/46/417 and Add.1)

(b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/46/L.16)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I call on the representative of Turkey to introduce the draft resolution in document A/46/L.16

Mr. AKSIN (Turkey): On behalf of the member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/46/L.16, dated 23 October 1991 and entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference". This draft resolution is designed to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Given the fact that all members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference are also Members of the United Nations and that from its inception the Organization of the Islamic Conference has been fully dedicated to the realization of the purposes and principles of the United Nations, it is only natural that the two organizations should cooperate in promoting their common objectives in the field of peace and security as well as social and economic development.

The text of the draft resolution is similar to that of resolutions adopted under this item at previous sessions of the General Assembly.

In the preamble the General Assembly stresses its conviction that the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference contributes to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations, and recognizes the need for closer cooperation between the United Nations system and the Organization of the

(Mr. Aksin, Turkey)

Islamic Conference and its specialized institutions in the implementation of the proposals adopted at the coordination meeting of the focal points of the lead agencies of the two organizations. As delegations may be aware, a general meeting between representatives of the secretariats of the organizations of the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its specialized institutions is scheduled to take place in Geneva from 19 to 22 November 1991.

In operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/46/417 and Add.1.

In operative paragraph 2, the Assembly takes further note of the conclusions and recommendations of the sectoral meeting on human resources development: education and training which was held in Rabat in April 1991.

In operative paragraph 3, the Assembly notes with satisfaction the active participation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in the work of the United Nations towards the realization of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

In operative paragraph 4, the Assembly requests the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to continue cooperation in their common search for solutions to global problems.

In operative paragraph 5, the Assembly encourages the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to expand their cooperation with the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

In operative paragraph 6, the Assembly recommends that a general meeting between representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its specialized institutions be

(Mr. Aksin, Turkey)

organized in 1992 at a date and place to be determined through consultations with the concerned organizations.

In operative paragraph 7, the Assembly urges the organizations of the United Nations system, especially the lead agencies, to provide increased technical and other forms of assistance to the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its specialized institutions in order to enhance cooperation.

In operative paragraph 8, the Assembly expresses again its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his continued efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

In operative paragraph 9, the Assembly requests the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to hold consultations on a regular basis between representatives of the Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference by focusing on the implementation of programmes, projects and follow-up action.

In operative paragraph 10, the Assembly requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to continue encouraging the convening of sectoral meetings in the priority areas of cooperation.

In operative paragraph 11, the Assembly expresses its appreciation for the efforts of the Secretary-General in the promotion of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and expresses the hope that he will continue to strengthen the mechanisms of coordination between the two organizations.

(Mr. Aksin, Turkey)

In operative paragraph 12, the Assembly further requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the state of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Finally, in operative paragraph 13, the Assembly decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference".

On behalf of the member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, my delegation urges all Members of the General Assembly to support this draft resolution.

Before concluding I should like to take this opportunity to express the sincere thanks and appreciation of the member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, for his tireless efforts in strengthening cooperation between the two organizations.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): In accordance with General Assembly resolution 3369 (XXX) of 10 October 1975, I now call on the Permanent Observer of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Mr. ANSAY (Organization of the Islamic Conference) (OIC): It is a matter of great privilege for me to address the General Assembly on an item of particular significance to the United Nations and the organization I represent, namely, "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference".

Allow me to begin by extending to the President of the Assembly our warmest congratulations on his election to his lofty post. His election is a reflection of the respect and esteem that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia enjoys in the comity of nations and is equally a tribute to him personally for his well-known abilities, statesmanship, personality, vast experience and long association with the United Nations and everything it stands for.

I should like to avail myself of this opportunity to pay a tribute to the President of the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, who served in an exemplary manner.

I take this opportunity also to express our deep appreciation for the significant contribution being made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Perez de Cuellar, to the effectiveness and smooth functioning of the world body. He has earned the gratitude and respect of all of us and of the international community as a whole because of his humane attitude and deep understanding of global problems. His various achievements on behalf of peace during the short span of a few years speak for themselves. We heartily thank him also for his excellent report contained in document A/46/417 and Add.1 on this agenda item. We wish him the best of everything in the future.

The members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference have from the very outset clearly identified the role of our organization within the overall framework of the United Nations Charter. The charter of the Organization of

(Mr. Annay, OIC)

the Islamic Conference stresses the determination of its member States to make effective contributions for the enrichment of mankind and the achievement of progress, freedom and justice all over the world by promoting global peace and security.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference derives its inspiration from the eternal and noble message of Islam, and its establishment was predicated on the principles of peace, harmony, tolerance, equality and justice for all.

The charter of our organization reafirms the commitment of our members to the Charter of the United Nations. The perceptions of the members of our organization are identical to those of the vast majority of the United Nations membership on important international issues. It is quite natural that the two organizations should work together closely to promote the ideals, principles and objectives that they share.

Since its foundation in 1969 the Organization of the Islamic Conference has adopted numerous resolutions and declarations, both at the summit level and at the level of meetings of Foreign Ministers, addressing the issues that confront the Islamic world as well as important global developments relating to international peace and security, disarmament, human rights, minorities, decolonization and issues relating to socio-economic development, particularly the establishment of the new international economic order.

Cooperation between the two organizations received an important boost in 1975, when the Organization of the Islamic Conference was granted observer status by the United Nations. By the late 1970s it was felt that the ever-increasing interaction of the two organizations should be given an

(Mr. Annay, OIC)

institutional framework whereby the secretariats and the specialized agencies, organs and bodies of the two organizations could hold regular consultations to review their ongoing work and to examine the possibilities of expanding and enlarging their areas of cooperation.

Since the adoption in 1980 of General Assembly resolution 35/36, which was the first resolution on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, a number of agreements of cooperation have been concluded by our organization with specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, and the United Nations bodies concerned with technical cooperation for development.

The cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference has been mutually satisfactory and has been developing in a meaningful manner. Ever since the first meeting between the representatives of the secretariats of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its specialized institutions and those of the United Nations system, which was held in 1983, the two organizations have been collaborating on a number of important projects in the seven already identified priority areas of cooperation which have been discussed in the Secretary-General's report (A/46/417) dated 3 October 1991.

(Mr. Ansay, OIC)

Within the framework of cooperation between the OIC and the United Nations, and in pursuance of United Nations General Assembly resolution 45/9 of 1990 on cooperation between the two organizations, the first sectoral meeting between the organization and the agencies of the United Nations system and the OIC on "Human Resources Development: Basic Education and Training", was held in Rabat, Morocco, from 24 to 26 April 1991, with the following objectives: first, review of current and planned programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in the domain of basic education and training in Islamic countries; secondly, review of needs and priorities in basic education and training identified by Islamic countries and the Organization of the Islamic Conference; and, thirdly, identification of possible areas and modalities of cooperation between the United Nations and the OIC specialized agencies to meet the needs of the Islamic countries.

Based on the recommendations of the Rabat Forum in conjunction with the United Nations system's specialized agencies, such as the United Nations Development Programme, UNESCO and the International Labour Organisation, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, together with the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, is developing a comprehensive and integrated human resources development framework for the OIC member States.

The next general meeting between the representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its specialized institutions will be held from 19 to 22 November 1991 in Geneva. The meeting will review the progress that has been made in different priority areas.

(Mr. Ansay, OIC)

Let me assure the Assembly in the meantime that the Organization of the Islamic Conference is fully conscious of the financial constraints on both sides, and therefore our cooperation process takes that factor into account. As is customary, the 1992 cooperation meeting is subject to consultations as regards time and place between the secretaries-general of the two organizations.

The draft resolution (A/46/L.16) which has just been introduced and explained in detail by the Permanent Representative of Turkey, the representative of the current Chairman of the Twentieth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, takes into consideration, inter alia, the recommendations - contained in the report (A/46/417/Add.1) of the Secretary-General - of the first sectoral meeting held between the organization and agencies of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference on "Human Resources Development: Basic Education and Training", held in Rabat in April 1991, and reflects the firm determination of the two organizations to cooperate in various other fields.

Recognizing that there are no additional financial implications in regard to the draft resolution before the Assembly, I am confident that it will have the unanimous approval of the membership of this body.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/46/L.16. I should like to inform members that the Secretary-General does not foresee programme budget implications in the implementation of this draft resolution.

May I take it that the Assembly adopts draft resolution A/46/L.16?

Draft resolution A/46/L.16 was adopted (resolution 46/13).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I shall now call on representatives wishing to explain their position. May I remind them that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. AHMED (India): My delegation has had occasion to express our views in regard to the item under consideration, "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference", including at the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly. We should like to recapitulate our views on the subject, particularly with reference to the resolution just adopted, which we supported.

India has the second largest population of Muslims in the world, next only to Indonesia. We are proud that the people of India, including the Muslims, have chosen for themselves a secular State where different religions flourish in harmony and contribute to the enrichment of the composite culture of the country. India's Constitution guarantees equal opportunities and rights, without discrimination of any type, to all its people and in all aspects. Our ties with the world of Islam, which go back several centuries, have been close, multifarious and mutually beneficial. Our own approach to many issues of crucial importance to international peace and security, such as the question of Palestine or those concerning West Asia and Africa, as well as

(Mr. Ahmed, India)

on a wide range of economic, social and humanitarian matters, coincides very significantly with those of the Islamic countries.

We in India have always sought to discourage a sectarian or denominational approach in dealing with political, economic, social, cultural or humanitarian questions, or the use of religious sentiments for promoting sectarian interests. The teachings of all religions subserve the same end and should unite rather than divide peoples. Groupings of nations on the basis of religious sentiments or beliefs need to be particularly mindful of these considerations.

The increasing cooperation between the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the United Nations is viewed as an indication of the former's acceptance of the Charter of the United Nations as the principal repository of the ideals and principles that should guide global interaction and promote the progress of mankind. We believe that, like other bodies that have such cooperation, the Organization of the Islamic Conference will strive for a progressive, tolerant and just society and for a world order based on freedom, equality, justice and brotherhood.

We have taken note of the fact that the proposals contained in the Secretary-General's report (A/46/417 and Add.1) are aimed at increasing the interaction between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference in the economic, social, humanitarian and environmental fields. As India is not a member of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, we shall not be in a position to judge the extent and value of such interaction. We would stress, however, that the cooperation between the United Nations and any observer intergovernmental organizations represented in the United Nations should be along the same lines and on terms of complete equality.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 27.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): At the request of the members of the European Community that are States Members of the United Nations, with the concurrence of the sponsors, consideration of agenda item 34, "Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States", which was originally scheduled for this afternoon, has been postponed to a later date to be announced in the Journal.

AGENDA ITEM 8 (continued)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

(a) LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES (A/46/374/Add.3)

(b) DOCUMENTATION FOR THE ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly will now turn its attention to document A/46/374/Add.3, which contains a letter dated 18 October 1991 from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences addressed to the President of the General Assembly. As members are aware, the Assembly, in paragraph 7 of its resolution 40/243, decided that no subsidiary organ of the General Assembly should be permitted to meet at United Nations Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly.

As indicated in the letter I have just mentioned, the Committee on Conferences has recommended that the General Assembly authorize the Committee on Applications for Review of Administrative Tribunal Judgements to meet at Headquarters during the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

(The President)

May I take it that the General Assembly adopts the recommendation of the Committee on Conferences?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): With regard to the question of documentation for the election of members of the International Law Commission, on our agenda today, as announced at our previous meeting, I should like to consult the Assembly on a matter regarding the election of members of the International Law Commission to be held on Thursday, 14 November. On that day, the Assembly will proceed to the election of 34 members of the Commission whose term of office is to commence on 1 January 1992. It should be recalled that, in accordance with the statutes of the International Law Commission, the Secretary-General communicated, through the Governments of Member States, in document A/46/228, the list of candidates submitted within the required time for the submission of nominations - that is, by 1 June 1991. Subsequent to that date, the Secretary-General received additional information concerning candidates as well as new candidatures. The names of these new candidates and additional information are contained in documents A/46/228/Add.1 to 9 and A/46/253/Add.1 and 2.

Under these circumstances it is necessary for the General Assembly to take a decision as to whether these new candidatures should be accepted in spite of the submission of their names subsequent to the deadline and whether they should be incorporated into a consolidated list of candidates. It has been the practice of the Assembly to incorporate such late submissions into a consolidated list.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General to issue such a consolidated list of candidates.

It was so decided.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I should like to inform Members of a change in our programme of work.

The Assembly will consider agenda item 21, "Critical economic situation in Africa", on Thursday, 7 November, in the morning and not on Friday, 8 November, as previously announced.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.